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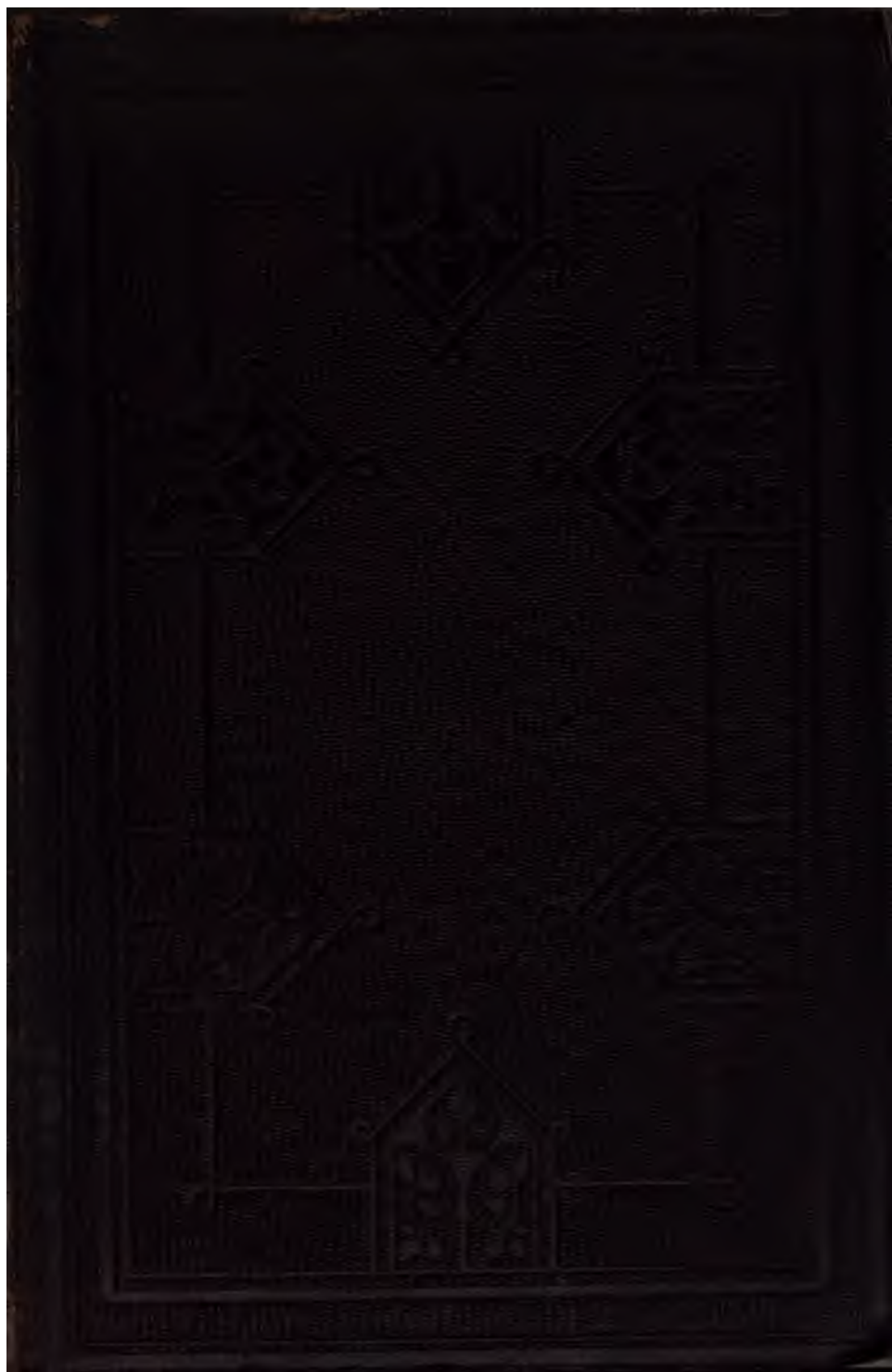
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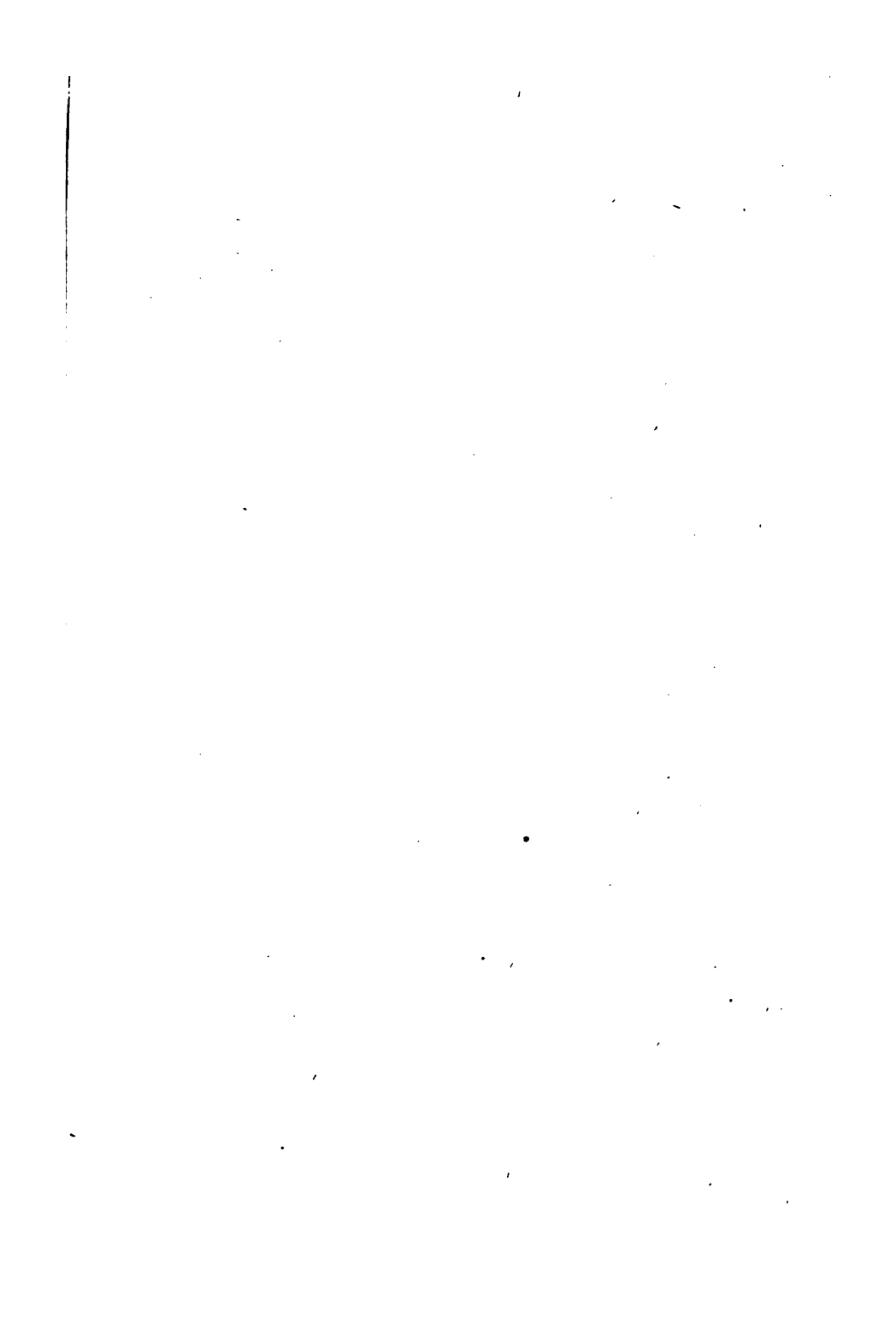
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A MEMOIR
OF
SIR JOHN KING, KNIGHT.



SID

1911

RECEIVED DAY

5/10. 6. 24



A MEMOIR
OF THE
LIFE AND DEATH
OF
SIR JOHN KING, KNIGHT.

WRITTEN BY HIS FATHER IN 1677,

AND NOW FIRST PRINTED.

WITH ILLUSTRATIVE NOTES.

1 Corinth. Chap. vii. ver. 24.
BRETHREN, LET EVERY MAN, WHEREIN HE
IS CALLED, THEREIN ABIDE
WITH GOD.

LONDON:
BELL AND DALDY, FLEET STREET.
1855.

210. C. 254.





PREFACE.

DURING a visit to a friend at *Jersey* in 1853, I had licence to pass at will through a garden and vestibule belonging to the dwelling of a neighbour, that being the nearest way from the abode of my host to the centre of the town of *St. Helier*. I one day lingered to examine an engraved portrait in an old frame which hung in that vestibule, and which represented a counsellor of the seventeenth century, whose features were new to me. A French domestick came up to me while thus engaged, and taking down the
the

the print from the wall shewed me that the back of the frame opened and disclosed a thin parchment folio of manuscript, which, at my request, I was allowed to take home and examine, and which ultimately, through the kindness of the owner, Mr. *Francis Bertram*, followed me to *England*.

A faithful reproduction of this manuscript forms the staple of this little book. To the kind attention which has rewarded my inquiries after matters of illustrative detail, I owe the supplementary portion of the volume. I am in this respect under peculiar obligation to *William Lee*, Esq. one of Her Majesty's Counsel, to *George Henry Malme*, Esq. of *Brixton*, to the *Lancaster Herald*, and to Mr. and Mrs. *Williamson*,

*liamson, of Datchworth Rectory,
Herts.*

Of the brief career of the subject of this biography, the season allotted to the fulfilment of the rich promise of his youth formed so small a portion, that it can scarcely be wondered at that the memory of that career had in the next generation well-nigh faded away; probably the bereaved Father anticipated this result when he treasured up for the use of his grandchildren the details which had printed themselves so indelibly upon his own breast, and which he desired them to make use of as matters rather of imitation than of pride. By his immediate contemporaries, however, the full meed of affectionate laudation was accorded to the young Advocate, Theologian,

Preface.

gian, and Critic, and the pages of *Echard*, *Roger North*, and Sir *Henry Chauncy* have embalmed his memory for the delectation of those to whom the byeways of history form a welcome retirement from the absorbing cares of things present and inevitable.

It has appeared to me, however, that with a somewhat larger circle of readers these pages may find acceptance—to some of the existing followers of Sir *John King's* calling, this cabinet picture of a lawyer of the *Stuart* times may be welcome, and there are many both in and out of that calling whom it may interest to know that in “the day of *England's* deepest degradation, when in private life morality was a reproach, truth departed, and religion a jest,”
one

one courtier at least was a Christian—that while one of the brightest ornaments of the Court of *Catherine of Braganza** was a living witness for truth and holiness, the most finished orator, and one of the most favoured candidates for honour in the circle which surrounded *Catherine's* unprincipled and licentious husband was the profound theologian and earnest humble Christian, Sir *John King*.

To both classes of readers I offer this unpretending record. With the more copious and polished Memoir of Mrs. *Godolphin* it shares a recommendation rare in volumes bearing the same outward aspect—that of genuineness, and while it contains passages

* Mrs. Godolphin.

passages here and there which *Izaak Walton* might have written, it breathes throughout a spirit with which he and those who like him cherished the lamp of truth in stormy times would have delighted to hold communion upon earth.

GEORGE HENRY SAWTELL.

27, *Hans Place, Chelsea,*
August 3, 1855.



A Brief and True Narrative of

The Life and Death of

SIR JOHN KING, KNIGHT,

Late one of the Bench of the Honorable
Society of the Inner Temple.

TOGETHER

WITH THE TEXT AND CONCLUSION

OF DR. GRADOCK'S SERMON

PREACHED AT HIS BURIAL.

AND ALSO

of two *Epitaphes* made on him by two
of his endeared Friends
since his Death.



ANNO Dñi 1677.





DR. *John King* his legacy for his three Grandchildren, *John*, *Joseph*, and *Mary*, the issue of my deceased Son *Asahel King*, M^r of Art and late preband of *Glocester*, to be kept by *Richard Sadleir*, Gent. and *Elizab.* his wife, and to be delivered to *John King*, son of my said (son) *Asahel King*, at the age of fourteene, he (the said *John*) giving two coppies of this Lecacy in like manner made up, one to his Brother *Joseph* and the other to his sister *Mary* when they shall be fourteene years old, to be paid by *Richard Sadleir* their Guardian out of their years' revenue settled on them by my Will.



A Brief and True Narrative of the
life and death of Sir *John King*, late
one of the Bench of the Honorable
Society of the *Inner Temple*.

Together with the Characters of the admirable
endowments of the soul of the said Sir *John
King*, by God inspired, which so adorned him
in the view of all, that made him acceptable
and beloved both of God and Man.

I. *His Birth and Descent.*



HE was born at *St. Albans* in
the county of *Hertford*, the
fifth day of *February* in the
year of our Lord one thousand six
hundred thirty and eight. His An-
cestors by the Fathers side came out
of

His birth
Place.

His lineage.

of *France* att the tyme of the Maf-
 sacre there (1572) for refuge into
England; by the Mothers fide he
 was of the family of the *Roberts* of
Wilsden in the county of *Middlesex*.

2. *His Temper.*

His quali-
 ties.



FROM his infancy he was
 docill, tractable, of a tem-
 per debonare, humble, and
 affable, very obedient and plyable to
 his parents commands, diligent in
 learning the Grounds and principles
 of the Protestant Religion.



3. *His Education, how and where.*



When he came of age fit to be put to School, he took the rudiments of learning in the free School of *St. Albans* very strenuously, so that in a short tyme he was of the highest forme of the School; about the age of thirteen he went to *Eaton Colledge*, where after one year he was chosen scoller of the House, in which place he submitted to the meanest service required of him with dilligence, and within two years after he was advanced to the chief and head forme of the School; his master would often say he was very dextrous and quick of apprehension in taking of his learning, and he himself would say

His Industry
at *St. Albans*,

at *Eaton Colledge*.

His dexte-
rity in
avoiding
tempta-
tions.

say what part of learning he took in hand, by God's help he would be Master of it. He was not easily drawn to play the Truant, for when others would allure him to goe abroad he would put them of with some excuse, and get up into his study and lock himself in, and would answer none, though they knock'd never so much; and when the truants were come home, they courted him to make their exercises for them, which he most reddily did, and thereby wone their love and avoyded their temptations.



4. *His Religion.*

HE was a diligent reader of the Bible, and especially of the Gospell and Epistles of *St. John*, often saying his wrightings were the marrow of the Christian faith and life and of the Mystery of Godlines, short and full of the Myserie of the Trinity. He would often wright to his Mother very pious christian letters while he was at *Eaton* and after from *Cambridge*, often expressing to her that he had cause to bless God for his Education. While he was at *Eaton* he endeared himself in the love of all by his curteous behaviour and by his industry in all his studdies, so that his Master would express

His Piety.

Beloved att
Eaton.

expres to his parents the great blessing of God in giving them such a Son.

5. *His admission att Cambridge.*

The tyme of
his admission
att Cambridge.



IN November one thousand six hundred fifty five he went to *Cambridge*, and was then admitted into *Queen's Colledge*, his Tutor was Mr. *Samuel Jacomb*, Dr. *Jacomb's* brother; his coteremporaries were Dr. *Cradock*, Dr. *Patrick*, Dr. *Walter Needham*, and other worthies at the same time his collegiats, and Dr. *Puller* of *Jesus Colledge*, who can speak more of his manner of life there and of his studdies then others can. He was not onely beloved and highly esteemed for his learning and good

Beloved att
Cambridge.

good deportment in his Colledge but also in the University, both in the publick Schools and upon all other occasions of exercises of learning in other places.

He was a very provident and prudent youth in his expences, and kept an exact account of his receipts and disbursements to shew his parents. He continued at *Cambridge* until he was Bacherlour of Art; his parents being determined to admit him into the Inns of Court to Studdy the Law, they sent for him in *Aprill* one thousand six hundred and sixty, and before he had quite left *Cambridge* he proposed this desire of his to his parents, that if they please to lett him continue his studdies att *Cambridge*, for he liked the University because of the learning and of the choice Libraries

His frugality.

His continuance in *Cambridge*.

His love to the University.

His self denial.

baries there, where he found great friendship and great helps for improving of him in learning, he doubted not but that he should soon have a fellowship, so that thereby he should be able to keep himself, and increase in all sort of learning, until God should call him to some comfortable living, to take the charge of a small people, to watch over, pray for, and preach to, that he and they might live together in Christian piety and charity, and goe to Heaven att last; this was the utmost of his desire in this world, loving a retired, studious life; this was the delight of his soul, and fain would he have continued in this manner of life, yet with submission to his parents will.

6. *His*

6. *His admission into the Inner Temple.*



E was admitted into the Society of the *Inner Temple* in *November* one thousand six hundred and sixty, being att last willing unto it by the persuation of some of his *Cambridge* friends settled in some of the Inns of the Court, where he continued untill he departed this life in *Trinity* tearme one thousand six hundred and seventy seven, with great industry beyond his strength of body, being of a large soul, endowed with acute faulties and a prodigious memory, retaining all that he treasured up there for his use upon all occasions when he was to speak to any point of Law, Divinity, phylosophy, hystory,

His continuance until death.

His large Endowments.

hystory, or any other part of learning held out both in the antient and modern languages, in all which he was well versed, he did it with that redines, perspicuity, succinctnes, and good language, with that modesty and humility that it was acceptable to all that heard him.

7. The Time of his continuance in the Temple.



FOR the space of tyme that he was a member of the honorable society of the *Inner Temple*, it was seventeen years if he had lived to *November* one thousand six hundred and seventy seven years under the Barr, and ten years wanting four months at the Barr.

What

Sir *John King*, Knt.

I I

What he was in the knowledge of the Law of his country and practice thereof, his acceptance in his Maties courts of judicature and the learned counsell in the Law can best declare. His practice the year one thousand six hundred seventy six was to him four thousand seven hundred pounds that year, and the four dayes in Trinity Terme one thousand six hundred seventy seven, that he pleaded, with a fever upon him, he had in fees forty and fifty pounds a day, as by his book entred with his own hand did appear.

His abilities
and practice
in the Law.



8. *His Charity and other Vertues.*

His vertuous qualities.



OR his charity, bounty, generosity, friendship, courtesy, humility, and patience, with his reverence and respect to his Superiours, are not unknown to all that conversed and had to deale with him.

9. *His Marriage.*

Married, to whom and when.



He married *Joyce*, the daughter of *William Bennett* of *High Rothing* in the county of *Essex*, Esquire, the twentieth day of *February* one thousand six hundred sixty and six, by whom he had
issue,

Sir *John King*, Knt.

13

issue, *Robert*, *Mary*, *Ann*, *Elizabeth*,
John, *Joyce*, and *Jane*; of his issue
four daughters (to wit) *Mary*, *Anne*,
Joyce and *Jane* are deceased; the
living that are yet in being are, *Ro-*
bert King, Esquire, the heir of the
said Sir *John King* his family, of the
age of nine years and one half at his
Father's death, whose education by
his deceased Father's appointment is
in *Eaton* Colledge, the place wherein
his Father was (about his age) edu-
cated; the other of the living are
his daughter *Elizabeth*, aged three
years and four monthes, and *John*,
aged two years and three monthes
at the tyme of their father's death,
which said three children are the
onley issue of the said Sir *John King*
that remaineth alive att his death,
which he had by the said *Joyce* (his
Lady)

His issue.

The heir of
his Family.

His issues
att his
death.

Mother of
his issue.

She made
sole execu-
trix and
Guardian.

His worthy
Trustees.

Lady) Daughter and heiress of the said *William Bennett*, Esquire, whom Sir *John*, out of that sincere affectionate love and respecte that he had of her, left her sole executrix of his last will and testament, and sole guardian of his said three living issue, and for her better assistance in this great trust committed to her, he by his Will appointed *Edward Hales*, of *St. Stephen* in the county of *Kent*, Esquire, *William Longuevill*, of the *Inner Temple*, Esquire, and *John Powell*, of the town and City of *Gloucester* in the county of *Gloucester*, Esquire, to be his Trustees, to and in whom he had much confidence, from that experience he had of them of their real love and friendship to him in his life tyme, which made him put his trust in them att his death, whom
he

he had found so really kinde and loving in his life tyme, and whom he honored and had in high esteeme from his first knowledge and acquaintance with them all his tyme, untill God parted them from him by his death.

10. *His Industry.*



His industry was so great that he never slept five hours together all those dayes that he designed to improve in his learning, and towards the latter end of his tyme not three hours together, neither had he tyme to refresh nature by seasonable repasts and rest, his employment in his calling was so great, and overprest by multitude of Cliants, which

His indefef-
able Labour.

His faith-
fulness to
his Clyant.

which shortened his days; for the Trinity Terme one thousand six hundred seventy seven, that he fell sick and died, he pleaded four days together, when he had a strong fever upon him, out of conscience and duty to his cliant, who had feed him and rested upon him.

11. *His Sicknes.*



IN the fourth day of His Fever, he being att the Chancery Bar, he fell so ill of the fever that he was forced to leave the court, and came to his chamber in the *Temple* with one of his Clerks, which constantly wayted on him and carried his bag of writings for his pleadings, and there told him that he should re-
turn

turn to every Clyant his Breviat and his fee, for he could serve them no longer, for he had done with this world, and thence came home to his house in *Salisbury court*, and took his bed; where, with that quietness, patience, and submission to the will of God he made his will, in full strength of minde, and when he had read it, he sealed, signed, and published it; he said, I am glad it is done, and after took his leave of his wife and children, desiring the Lord to bless them; and told his wife, who was full of tears, seing it is the will of God, let us part quietly in friendship with submissiveness to his will, as we came together in friendship by his will; and then he sequestered himself to meditation between God and his own soul, without the least regret,

His Equity to his Clyant.

His free resignation of his will to the will of God.

gret, but quietly and patiently contented himself with the will of God.

12. The Profession of his Religion on his Death Bed.



OME two days before his death he spake to Dr. *Puller*, his intimat Friend, and said to him, the vulgar in this dividing and censuring age may have some hard thoughts of him touching his religion: he said to the Dr. you know me, I do declare that I dy in the faith of the doctrin of the Protestant Religion, owned and maintained by the Church of England, and do rely onely upon the merits and satisfaction of my Lord *Jesus Christ* for pardon of all my sinns and salvation by him ; And fain

The profession of his faith upon his death bed.

fain would have received the Sacrament of the Lords supper upon this his confession, and further said that he never was assaulted by any Papist in the matter of his Religion. And so the Dr. prayed with him, and took his leave of him for that tyme.

13. *His Death.*



AND before he could receive the Sacrament he fell (as most iudged) into a supposed sleep, and turned on his left side and drew his breath seemingly well, but an hour or two afterward turned on his back, and his eyes somewhat open and speechless, and after a long tyme, by the use of some means gott over that fitt, and came to speak and to know

His supposed sleep the fore-runner of his death.

His sleep of
Death.

know his wife, and called for his children and relations; but the next fitt he fell in like manner a sleep, and all about him that sat by him thought verily that he was asleep, he lay so well and drew his breath so well, till at last they heard a ratling in throat, they hastily looked and found him departing very gently, without sighthing or groaning, in a sleeping manner. And thus God translated his large soul, with the full enjoyment of all satisfaction in himself, when he had lived in this valley of teares thirty eight years four monthes and 24 dayes, with much labour and sorrow, in attaining those glimerings of knowledge which he in blifs now fully enjoys, and that in rest with joy unspeakable and full of Glory.

14. *His*

14. *His Burial.*



THIS body was honorably buried the fourth day of *July*, 1677, in the *Temple Church*, nere the inclosed Effigies of the Knts. Templers, which body of his was carried from the *Inner Temple Hall* the same day (the velvet Pall on his Coffin bore up with six of the ho^{ble} bench of the *Inner Temple*, honored with the presence of the right Ho^{ble} *Heneage Finch*, Barron of *Daventry*, lord high Chancellor of *England*, Sir *Harbottle Grimstone*, Knight, Barronett and Master of the Rolls, the Judge and Barrons of the Kings Mat^{ie} courts at *Westminster Hall*, the Serjeants att law, Benchers, Barris-
ters

His Ho^{ble}
interment.

ters and Gentlemen students of the hoble society of the *Inner Temple*) to his grave in the said church, where Dr. *Cradock*, his beloved friend, preached his funerall sermon out of the *eleventh Chapter of Ecclesiastes the eight verse: the words are these*; But if a man live many years and rejoyce in them all, yet lett him remember the *dayes of darknes*, for *they shall be many*.

The Dr. concluded his sermon with these verses out of the fourth chapter of the book of Wisdom from the seventh verse to the fifteenth, leaving out the twelfth verse.

7 But though the righteous be prevented with death, yet shall he be in rest.

8 For honorable age is not that which is of a long tyme, nor that which

which is measured out by number of years.

9 But wisdom is the gray hair unto men, and an unspotted life is old age.

10 He pleased God and was beloved of him, so that living amongst finners he was translated.

11 Yea, speedily was he taken away, lest that wickedness should alter his understanding, or deceit beguile his soul.

13 He being made perfect in a short time, fulfilled a long time.

14 For his soul pleased the Lord, therefore hastened he to take him away from among the wicked.





HIS Elegie as here exprest was made by one that was much conversant with the said Sir *John King* in his life tyme, and sent to a dear relation of the said Sir *John's* since his death.

He that had such swiftness of apprehension, such
strength of reason, so found a Judgment, so prodigious a memory as to carrie
all human and divine things in it,
And all adorned with the greatest sweetness,
modesty and humanity imaginable,
He that in the midst of great temptations and
flatteries kept himself unspotted
from the world,

He that neither flattery could soften (though
his soul was compliant and gentle as a Lamb)
nor their threats nor frowns affright
From the pathes of vertue and pure religion,
was to great and to good for this world, but
admirably qualified to converse with the spirits
of just men made perfect in the other world,

He

He that fought so good a fight, kept the faith,
and so gloriously finished his course,
Looking unto *Jesus*, the author and finisher of
his faith,

He ran with patience the race that was sett
before him,

So that through the grace of *Christ* that strengthened him hath received the crown that fadeth not away, reserved in the Heavens, having resigned up his great soul with patience and chereful Submission unto the hands of him who gave it, adorned with so many admirable gifts
of Grace and Nature,

As into hands of a faithfull Creator and blessed
Redeemer,

Where it is rewarded with the blessed vision of him in whose presence is lyfe, and att whose right hand there are Rivers of pleasures
for ever more.



THIS



HIS Epitaph, turned into English, is the same that is in Latin engraved on a white marble table in a black and white marble monument erected in the *Temple Church* for the preservation of the memory of Sir *John King* to Posterity.

*Here nere to lyeth Sir John King Knight
Counsellor att law to our Soveraigne Lord King
Charles the Second
Solicitor generall to his Highnes James Duke of
York*

*And one of the Society of the Inner Temple
who ever and how great so ever thou art (oh
Reader)*

*profoundly be astonished
Close thy lipps with thy fingers
let thine eyes run down with tears
behold at thy feet lyeth
the higheſt atchievements of Art and Nature*

now

*now made subject to death
not long since*

*This dust was all manner of ways learned
A treasury of the Muses
of an eloquence choice pure and inoffensive,
most excellent in the Lawes of his Country,
dear to his relations, acceptable to Princes,
curteous to all.*

A true friend indeed.

*An excellent ornament of his age,
and their irreparable loss.*

Hence learn (oh Reader)

*How little of mortall Glory doth happen to a minde
adorn'd with the most splendid endowm^t of
Nature.*

*Blessed learned dearly beloved ashes,
Rest in thy sweet sleep.*

*Departed this life the twenty-ninth day of June
1677 att the age of thirty eight, four
months & twenty-four days
So passeth away the Glory of the World.*



MS

Elogium ut in Æde Templorū Marmore
albo inculpta.



Hic iuxta jacet

JOHANNES KING, Miles

Serenissimo Carolo 2^{do} Regis in legibus Angliæ Consultus.

Illustrissimo Jacobo Duci Eboracenci Solicitator generalis.

et interioris Templi Socius.

Qualis Quantusve sis lector

profundum obstupeſce

Labia digitis comprime

Oculos lachrymis ſuffunde

En ! ad pedes tuos

Artis et Natura ſuprema conamina

Fatorum ludibria !

Non ita pridem

erat iſte pulvis omnifariam doctus

Mufarum gazophylacium

Eloquentiam calluit claram, puram, innocuam.

Legibus ſuæ Patriæ erat inſtructiſſimus

Suis Charus, Principibus gratus, omnibus urbanus.

Amicus

Amicus verus.

Sui seculj ornamentū illustre, desideriū irreparabile.

Hinc disce Lector

Quantillum mortalis Gloriæ

Animæ splendidissimis decoratæ dotibus obtingit.

Dulcem soporem agite

Dilecti, eruditi, beatj cineres

Obijt xxix Junij Anno Dni m̄dclxxvij Annoq. Ætatis
suæ xxxviiij

Sic

transit

Gloria

Mundi



Extracted

*Extracted from the Registry of the
Prerogative Court of Canterbury.*

In the Name of God, Amen.



JOHN KING of the *Inner Temple London* Knight, being sick in bodie but praised be God of a desposing mind and memorie, doe make this my last Will and Testament in manner followinge: And I recommend my Soule unto Almighty God, humbly hoping through the alone mercies of my blessed Saviour *Jesus Christ* to have my Sins forgiven me and to be made partaker of everlasting life, I direct my body to be buried in a private manner in *St. Bride's Vault* or in the *Temple Church* as my Executrix shall direct, and I
do

do hereby constitute and appoint my deare Wife my Executrix of this my last Will and Testament, I devise all my reall Estate of Inheritance unto *Edward Hales* of *Goodwestone* in the county of *Kent* Esquire, *William Longueville* of the *Inner Temple London* Esquire, and *John Powell* of the said *Inner Temple* Esquire and their heirs In trust, that they together with my said Executrix do out of my reall and personal estate pay and discharge all my debts (and particularly the debt I owe by Bond to Mr. *Colwall* of the *Inner Temple* and the Debt I owe by Bond to Mr. *William Anderson*, which two debts I hereby declare to be my proper debts and not the debts of that person who is bound with mee for the same. And such legacies as are hereinafter bequeathed

queathed I will and bequeath unto my dear Wife the House and the lease thereof which I have in *Salisbury Court*, And all the furniture and goods therewith used, desiring her to accept it as an instance of my respect; And in case shee may marry again I desire her to remember my Children, Alsoe my Coaches and Horses I devise unto my said deare Wife. I will and bequeath unto my daughter *Elizabeth* two thousand pounds to be paid her at her age of one and twenty yeares or day of marriage which shall first happen, And unto my Son *John* I devise two thousand pounds to be payd him at his age of one and twentie yeares, and if either or both of them shall die before the times whereon the said portions shall be payd as aforesaid then the portion or portions aforesaid

aforesaid to be divided and remaine unto my surviving children or child.

And my will is that all the rest of my estate reall and personall shall be in the use and benefit of my eldest Son *Robert* and his heirs, The personall Estate in such manner to be disposed of or layd out in Land as my said trustees shall see convenient, and if my Sonn *Robert* dye without issue before his age of one and twentie, then all my said reall and personall I devise in like manner to the use and benefit of my Sonn *John* and his heirs, And if both my said Sonns shall dye before one and twentie years of age and without issue, then I devise my said estate to my daughter *Elizabeth* in like manner, And my will is that my said Children shall from time to time have
such

fuch Allowances for maintenance till their respective ages of one and twentie years as my dear Wife shall appoint and judge convenient, And if my said dear Wife shall marrye or dye then my meaning is that the afore-said *Edward Hales, William Longueville* and *John Powell* shall be my Executors, and shall direct and appoint the Allowances for maintenance for my said Children respectively till their ages of one and twentie yeares respectively as to my said Executors and Trustees and the survivors of them shall seeme convenient, Alsoe I give and bequeath the Guardianship of my said Children unto my deare Wife until they shall attaine their severall ages of one and twentie yeares, But if my Wife marries or dyes before their said respective

tive ages of one and twentie, then as farr as by Lawe I maye I will and be-queath the Guardianshipp of my said Children until their said respective ages of one and twentie yeares unto my aforesaid Executors and Trustees and the survivors of them, To the poore of *St. Bride's* parish I give tenn pounds, And to each of my servants such Increase of their Salaries not exceeding a yeares wages as my Wife shall see fit, To each of my Trustees I give Mourning, and to such of my Relations as my wife shall think fitt, tenn pounds apiece. I give to my Servant Storer—*John King*. Sealed published and subscribed in our presence by the said Testator, and subscribed by us in the presence of the Testator *John King*, *J. Hales*, *Robert Longueville*, *Cha. Birkbecke*.

12th July, 1677.

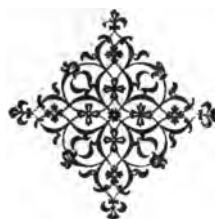


HICH Day appeared personally *Charles Birkbecke* and maketh Oath that the within written Will of Sir *John King* Knight deceased was sealed, published and subscribed by the said Testator on the twenty seaventh day of *June* One thousand six hundred seaventy seven in the prefence of *John King*, *J. Hales*, *Robert Longueville*, and him the said *Charles Birkbecke*, witnesses subscribed to the within written Will, *Cha. Birkbecke*.—Jurat coram me *Guil. Trumbull*, Surr.

Probatum fuit Testamentum supra-
scriptum apud *London* coram
venerabili Uiro *Gulielmo Trumbull*
Legum

Legum Doctore Surrogato venerabilis et egregij viri Domini *Leolini Jenkins* Militis Legum etiam Doctoris Curiae Prerogativæ *Cantuariensis* Magistri Custodis sive commissarij legitime constituti duodecimo die mensis *Julij* anno domini millesimo sexcentesimo septuagesimo septimo Jureamento Dñæ *Jocose King* relictæ et Executricis in hujusmodi Testamento nominatæ cui commissâ fuit Administratio omnium et singulorum bonorum jurium et creditoꝝ dicti defuncti de bene et fideliter administrando eadem ad sancta Dei Evangelia in debita Jurio forma juratæ.







NOTES.



“ OTHER works have come to us meagrely and
“ shadow-wise in compilations, or have to be
“ painfully recomposed from quotations and
“ allusions—not a few survive in mouldy crypts
“ or on dusty shelves, in mildewed vellum, or
“ between worm-riddled oaken boards, not
“ read, nor likely to be, but seldom wholly un-
“ worthy the reading, if life were long enough
“ for looking back.”

National Review, July, 1855.



NOTES.

PAGE I.

DR. JOHN KING—the only son of Monsieur *Le Roy*, who is said by *Chauncy* to have been “ the French Resident in *England* in the time of Queen *Elizabeth* ;” elsewhere he is stated to have been “ much employed by Queen *Elizabeth* in her affairs with *France*.” After diligent search among the histories of the time, I can find no trace of him in either capacity. His only son was born in *Lime Street, London*, in 1604, and inherited a small landed estate in *Herts* ; he practised as a Physician successively at *Hertford, St. Albans*, and in *Aldersgate Street, London*, and dying in 1688, was buried with his Father at *St.*

Andrew's

Andrew's Undershaft. Sir John King was the eldest son of his second marriage, and of this pride of his house he seems to have compiled this Memoir, as a kind of solace for such a loss. Besides the copy from which the preceding pages are taken, another exists, which was copied for the benefit of Sir John's children, and which is now preserved with the Title-Deeds of the Manor of *Reed Court*, in the Parishes of *Marden* and *Yalding, Kent*, as is also an Heraldic family Record, prepared by *Robert King*, the Son and Heir of Sir John. The Doctor's last act (of which he has left a most formal Memorandum) was an effort to procure the registration of the family arms in the English Herald's College; but notwithstanding the Encouragement of Earl Marshal and Garter, this design was abandoned. An Extract from Dr. King's Will, in which he bequeaths the Portrait and Memoir here follows:—

“ I doe give and bequeath unto my grandsonne *John King*, the second sonne of
of

of my late sonne Sir *John King*, all my books that are Manuscripts and not printed, and his fathers picture in Oyle, with two Epitaphes of his Fathers Elogium, one in Latine and the same in English, in two figures of his Father's monument in the *Temple Church*, in two frames covered with glasse, and all the printed pictures covered with glasse, and the coat of arms of me and the *Roberts'* in Oyle in my Dyneing Room (*except that picture covered with glasse which hath a parchment book in it conteyning a narrative of the said Sir John King's life and death*), which said last picture I give to my said granddaughter *Mary King*, together with her father's picture at large in oyle. . . .

My father (by the name of *John Le Roy*, in English *John King*) departed out of this World the 11th day of *October* 1615, and the 14th day of the said *October* 1615 was buried in the parish Church of *St. Andrew Undershaft, London*, living and dying a parishioner of the said Parish. I *John King* (his only Child) desire that my

my body may be buried in the same grave or neare to it in the said Parish Church."

Asahel King died the year after his brother, and at the still earlier age of 31. To Sir *John's* interest he probably owed his stall at *Gloucester* and a living in *Kent*, besides which he held the living of *Deynton* in *Gloucestershire*, in right of his prebend. His two sons here mentioned both died in childhood. His only daughter, *Mary*, married a *Norfolk* clergyman named *Shipman*; from her descendants the Portrait and Memoir passed to a Mr. *Green* (said to have been her grandson), whose daughter married *Wigmore Whislin*, Esq. and by that gentleman's daughter, the widow of the Rev. *E. Mourant*, of *Guernsey*, it was given to Mr. *Bertram*.

P. 2.

Came out of France.—From *Rouen*, as appears from *Robert King's* Manuscript.

P. 3.

P. 3.

His Master.—*Francis Rous*, D.D. who presided at *Eton* from 1643 to 1658.

P. 9.

His admission into the Inner Temple.—Called to the Bar, 9 Feb. 1667; called to the Bench of the *Inner Temple* 31 Jan. 1674; appointed Treasurer of that Society 1675.

P. 9.

Divinity, philosophy, &c.—Sir *John's* Divinity Books are now in the possession of the Rev. *F. Rooper*. An acknowledgment of his services as a classical critic appears in the Preface to *Poole's* "Synopsis Criticorum: "*Johannes King*, Armiger ex hospitio Interioris Templi Juris peritiâ, aliarumq. bonarum artium clarissimus, cui ob prudens consilium et indefessos labores meâ operisq. causâ exantlatos plurimum me debere profiteor." Sir *Henry Chauncy* states that he was supposed to be meditating a confutation of the writings of

of *Socinus*, the execution of which was only prevented by his early death.

P. 11.

What he was in the Knowledge of the Law of his Country, &c.—In the absence of any details on this subject, we are left to glean a few particulars from contemporary writers. *Echard* states that “ he first practised before the Court of Judicatory for rebuilding the City after the Fire of London, but afterwards got into better business. He was high in favour with King *Charles* the Second, who made him one of his council in ordinary, and knighted him Dec. 10, 1674 ; and delighted (as he was wont to say) to hear Sir *John King* plead at the Council board, which King was esteemed by all that knew him to be a great judge of English wit and sense. As to the conduct and care of his clients, the great Lord Chancellor *Finch* declared he had hardly ever known his equal ; and the Lord Chancellor *Shaftesbury*, designing a regulation

“gulation of the Chancery, chose him
“out of a select number of learned men
“in the law for that purpose, who met
“at his house, and made great progress
“therein, though time allowed them not
“liberty to effect the same.”

The principal Reports extending over the short period of Sir *John King's* practice at the Bar are those of Lord Chancellor *Finch*, in which the names of the counsel who pleaded the various causes are not given, and although the amount of earnings stated by his Father upon the authority of Sir *John's* own fee-book appears prodigious for that period, yet I have not discovered his name in any reported case.

P. 12.

His Marriage, &c.—Lady *King's* domestic virtues are considerably impugned by *Roger North*, who gives the following sketch of the subject of this Memoir in his Life of Lord Keeper *Guilford*.

“Mr. *Longueville* first introduced to
his

his Lordship's acquaintance the most florid and accomplished gentleman of the Law, as in the course of his practice he appeared to be—Sir *John King*. His beginning was in general learning, having his face directed towards the Church, and so far as polite literature reached he was accomplished, being Master of *Tully* and the Latin oratory. He left the University and applied to the law. His first practice was before the Judicatory for the rebuilding *London* after the fire; there he made himself known, and as that court consumed its business, he crept into better in *Westminster Hall*, and was soon let into the wheel of Preferment, that is, by being put into some minor Attorneyship, as of the Queen or Duke, I remember not which; but he became the top practiser in the Court of Chancery, for he was cut out by nature and formed by education for that business. He had the most of an orator, and was withal the most polite and affable gentleman that I ever knew wear a gown. His principal care was to
be

be instructed, and then his performance was easy. *All his misfortune lay at home in a perverse consort*, who always after his day-labour done entertained him with all the chagrin and peevishness imaginable, so that he went home as to his prison or worse, and when the time came, rather than go home, he chose commonly to get a friend to go and sit in a free chat at the Tavern over a single bottle till 12 or 1 at night, and then to work again at 5 in the morning. His fatigue in business, which, as I said, was more than ordinary to him, and his no comfort, or rather discomfort at home, and taking his refreshment by exciting his sleep, soon pulled him down, so that after a short illness he died."

Sir John in his Will bequeaths several articles to his Wife "as an instance of his respect;" but Lady King's Will, indited when six years of widowhood had passed over her, speaks of her lost Lord in more tender terms:—"I desire that my body may be buried decently and privately in the

the *Inner Temple Church*, in the same grave where my dearly beloved husband now rests, if that honorable Society will permit me to be interred there . . . and . . . being desirous to shew all the respect that I can expresse to the memorye of the most tenderly affectionate husband that ever Woman was blessed withal, I intend all my said Estate for the advancement of his and my Children." One of the overseers of her Will was Sir *Robert Joflin* of *Sawbridge-worth* (the ancestor of the present Earl of *Roden*), "of whose integrity and justice, real friendship and kindness" she had "had experience." Whether Lady *King's* domestic virtues have been unduly aspersed by gossiping *Roger North*, or whether this tender language had something of remorse in it, the reader must decide for himself.

Of the children, *John*, the father's namesake, appears to have given the most promise of following his career. An immoderate attention to his studies, however, according to the *Reed Court MS.* undermined his constitution, and he was laid

laid beside his parents in the *Inner Temple* vaults a few days after the completion of his nineteenth year.

Elizabeth, the only daughter who grew to womanhood, married Dr. *Gelsthorp* of *Hatton Garden*, and died seventeen years afterwards, at the age of thirty-six, leaving an only son, *Robert*, who died young, leaving his property to his uncle.

Robert, the eldest son of Sir *John*, was entered at the *Inner Temple*, and called to the bar. He married into the *Bonfoy* family, and commenced country gentleman in 1703, by the purchase of some property at *Tewing, Herts*, and a house and estate called *Bragbury End*, near *Broadwater*: the house is still standing in modernized circumstances, and with a few surrounding dwellings forms a hamlet to the parish of *Datchworth*. *Robert King* appears to have been devoted to unremunerative pursuits, including astrology and heraldry. He compiled the *Reed Court* family record, and cast the nativities of himself and his sons. He was also of a pliant disposition,

disposition, and became security for a Mr. *Peter*, who was treasurer for the county, and who, in 1713, left defalcations to the extent of £13,000 to be made good by Mr. *King* and his co-surety Sir *Bibye Lake*; this appears to have led to some years of disputation, and to many more of narrow circumstances, from which latter evil young Mr. *Gelsthorp* relieved the family in 1730, by a timely bequest of all his property, which is commemorated with very warm expressions of gratitude both in the *Reed Court MS.* and on a tablet in *Welwyn Church*.

Robert King left three sons who attained maturity; *Hugh*, whose only son of the same name died in his lifetime; *John*, who was a draper in *Newgate Street*, and *Robert*, who died at *Calcutta*, in the *East India Company's* service. The elder *Hugh* and his wife were the last survivors of the race, and were buried at *Datchworth* in the latter half of the last century.

A Memoir of the family was furnished to the Gentleman's Magazine for 1781, by

by "A Constant Reader," who describes himself as the great grandson and sole heir of *Richard Sadleir*, the eldest son of the marriage between *Richard Sadleir* and Sir *John King's* half sister, and who states that besides himself and some descendants of two other children of that marriage, no descendants remained of *John Le Roy*.

P. 14.

Edward Hales of Goodneston, son of Sir *Edward Hales*, who in his younger years risked his person and fortune in endeavouring the rescue of *Charles I.* from the *Isle of Wight*, and from the hands of those men that brought him to the scaffold; but having contracted a debt of near £800,000, in order to maintain a body of troops he had raised for the service of the King, and failing in all his enterprises, was obliged to abandon his country, and died in *France*. *Edward*, his son by a daughter and coheirefs of *Thomas Lord Wotton*, grew into favour with *James II.* under whom he had a regiment of foot,
was

was a Privy Councillor, a Lord of the Admiralty, Deputy Governor of the *Cinque Ports*, and Lieut. Governor of the *Tower of London*, where, after the Revolution, he was confined for some time, and after his release was at *La Hogue* when Admiral *Ruffel* burnt the French ships. He was created Earl of *Tenterden* by *James II.* while in exile, and died in *France* in 1695. *John Hales*, a barrister, his younger brother, is one of the Witnesses to Sir *J. King's Will*.

P. 14.

John Powell, called to the Bench of the *Inner Temple*, 28 April, 1689.

P. 14.

William Longueville, one of Sir *John's* Executors, thus commemorated by *Roger North*: "Another of his Lordship's (Lord Keeper *Guilford's*) acquaintance was Mr. *Wm. Longueville*, a man of discourse, witty, fluent, literate, copious, and instructive; and those who did not well attend to him, or did

did not understand him, thought he talked too much. He took to conveyancing, and in that practice rode one of the admirals. His integrity was as the driven snow. His beginning was low, the son of a cavalier Father who spent extravagantly what the tyranny of the times had left him,—he was a father to his father. A good-natured Six Clerk took a fancy to the young man, and gave him credit, by which he crept into that office, and at length made it his own, and in fit time sold it, by which he laid the foundation of an estate; and what with a match, by which he hath posterity, and his practice, hath re-edified a ruined family. His address and flowing wit recommended him, and he was entirely trusted by divers considerable families. He was the last patron and friend to *Butler*, whom he supported in his old age, otherwise he might have been literally starved. *Butler* made him his heir, i. e. gave him his remains, but in loose papers and indigested; he reduced them into method and order, and
some

some of them have been since printed." *Longueville* buried *Butler* at his own cost in the church yard of *Covent Garden*, after an unsuccessful attempt to raise a subscription for his interment in *Westminster Abbey*.

P. 17.

"*When he had read it,*" &c.—The Will ends abruptly in the middle of a legacy, but is subscribed in a firm hand. Dr. *King* is one of the witnesses, as well as *Robert Longueville*, probably the spendthrift cavalier noticed above.

P. 18.

"*Hard thoughts of him.*"—Perhaps owing to his acceptance of the post of Solicitor General to the Duke of *York*. His death created a vacancy in that office for the more notorious *Jefferys*. See Lord *Campbell's* Life of *Jefferys*, as to the offence which his acceptance of this office gave to his city friends.

P. 22.

P. 22.

His funeral sermon.—"Dr. *Cradock* was desired to make his funeral oration, which he declined at first in regard of his extraordinary respect and friendship with him, however he accepted the office afterwards, and demonstrated to his auditory, that as he neither could nor would be guilty of flattery in the praise of his friend, so Sir *John King* deserved the tongue of an angel to describe his real and true worth."

Chauncy.

P. 26.

His Epitaph.—*Thomas Flatman* composed this florid performance. *Echard* thus commemorates him :—" *Thos. Flatman*, bred to the law, but neglected that dry and laborious study to pursue his inclination to poetry and painting. Some of his tasteless contemporaries thought him equally excellent in both, but one of his heads is worth a ream of his *Pindarics*—I had almost said all the *Pindarics* written
in

in that reign. His works are extremely scarce. Ob. 8 Dec. 1688, æt. 53. Pope in the 'Dying Christian' closely copied several of his verses."

The monument was removed from a column in the circular church to the triforium in the late restoration at the *Temple*, and remains in excellent preservation in its new position ; a flat stone, with the name and date of burial was at the same time removed into the church-yard, where it may be seen side by side with a similar memorial to *Spelman*.

" *St. Albans* had the honor of his birth, *Eaton* laid the foundation of his school-learning, *Queen's Colledge* advanced him in his University Studies, and the *Inner Temple* completed him in those of the law. The *Temple Church* is the repository of what is left of him that is mortal, and is graced with an Epitaph, which, tho'

tho' much to his honor, yet comes far short of his merit.

"His soul was great, which seemed as if it were mismatcht with too slender a constitution of body; his sublime faculties were too brisk and operative to be long confined within so brittle a tenement, therefore we may think they made earlier preparations for a flight to more lasting habitations. . . . In a word, as to his intellectuals, he was master of all useful and polite learning; as to his morals, he was assiduous in his devotions to his Maker, and in a more eminent manner obedient to his Parents, for which we may presume that God conferred on him the blessing promised unto those who observed the 5th Commandment."

Chauncy's Hertfordshire.

"Sir John King, a finished scholar, an accomplished gentleman, a modest man, and a pious Christian. . . . He promised to make a more considerable figure in the law than any man of his age and standing

standing, and was greatly countenanced by *Charles II.* who intended him for a rival to Sir *Wm. Jones*, the Attorney General, as he strenuously opposed all the measures of the Court. It is probable that he would soon have supplanted him, if he had not been prevented by death."—*Echard*, p. 936.



1. Arms of KING.—*Az.* a chev. *sa.* in chief a lion rampant *or*, orientally crowned, in base an apple-tree fruited *proper*. Crest, a dove *arg.* beaked and membered *gu.* holding in the mouth an olive branch *vert*, and ensigned with a fleur-de-lys *or*.

2. *Belier*.—*Az.* a chev. *erm.* between 3 rams' heads cabossed *arg.* Crest, a ram's head in profile erased *arg.* charged with a chevron *az.*

3. *Hale*.—*Az.* a chev. embattled, counterembattled *or*.

4. *Roberts*. *Arg.* 3 pheons *sa.* on a chief of the 2nd a greyhound courant of the first.

5. *Blomer*.—*Gu.* on an inescutcheon *arg.* a lion rampant *gu.* within a bordure *or*.

6. *Bennett*.—*Vert*, on a chev. between 3 demy lions rampant *or*, 3 quatrefoils *az.*

7. *Sadleir*.—*Or*, a lion rampant, parted per fesse *az.* and *gu.* charged on the shoulder with a mullet of the 2nd.

8. *Bonfoy*.—*Az.* on a cross *arg.* a human heart *gu.* Crest, a cubit arm habitted *az.* armed *arg.* holding a plain cross *gu.*

9. *Gelfthorp*.—*Or* 2 bars *gu.* a bordure *sa.* Crest, a gryphon's head erased *or*.

10. *Shipman*.—*Or*, a cinquefoil between three crosses-croslets *gu.*

11. *Lascelles*.—*Arg.* 3 chaplets *gu.*

PEDIGREE OF THE

Jean Le Roy, born at Rouen, 548, came to England, 1572, died in Lime Street, 11 Oct. 1615.

^{1st Wife,}
M. 1632, Elizabeth, dau. of John Hale, of London, Merchant, who d. Jan. 15, 1636. John Le Roy or King, only son, born in Lime Street, Aug. 7, 1604, died Mar. 19, 1688, the Author of the Memoir.

(1) John, b. Aug. d. Sept. 1633.	(2) Richard, b. Sept. 1634, slain by a lance in Hispaniola during Cromwell's expedition thither, 2 April, 1655.	(3) Mary, b. 3 Oct. 1635, m. Giles Blomer of London (her issue pre-deceased her), she d. 25 Sept. 1675.	(4) Elizabeth, b. 19 Jan. 1636, m. 1657, Rd. Sadleir, Citizen and Merchant Taylor of London, and had eight children, of whom Richard d. Oct. 2, 1698, whose great grandson sent a Memoir to the Gentleman's Magazine in 1781.	Joyce, dau. and co-heiress of Wm. Bennett, of High Rodding, Essex, Esq. d. April, 1688.
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M. 1 Dec. Anna, 2nd. dau. of Hugh Bonfoy, of Abbots Ripton, co. Herts, Esq. d. Oct. 1710, bur. at Welwyn.	(1) Robert, bapt. 18 Dec. 1667, of the Inner Temple, Barrister at Law, 1690, purchased Bragbury End and Alden's Grove, inherited the estates of Robert Gelfthorp, d. 1737, b. at Datchworth.	(2) John, b. 27 March, 1675, admitted a Member of the Inner Temple 1688, died 10 April, 1694, b. Temple Ch.
---	--	---

Mary, dau. of Edmund Lafcelles, Citizen of London, m. 24 Nov. 1725, d. at Bedford, 1767, bur. at Datchworth.	(1) Hugh, b. May 29, 1699, d. at Highgate, 17 Jan. 1761, bur. at Datchworth.	(2) John, b. 4 Mar. 1700, was a Draper in Newgate Street, is not known to have married.	(3) Robert, d. in Infancy, 1701.	(4) Robert, b. 7 Dec. 1702, was in the E. I. Co.'s service, d. at Fort St. George, Calcutta, 15 April, 1725.
--	--	---	----------------------------------	--

Hugh, only son, b. 29 Jan. 1727, d. 21 Jan. 1746, bur. at Datchworth.

FAMILY OF KING.

Mary, dau. of James Blier or Belier,
an Elder of the French Church in
London.

2nd Wife,

M. Feb. 22, 1637, Anne, dau.
of Barne Roberts, of Willefden,
Midd. and fister of Sir Wm. Ro-
berts, Bart. she d. Feb. 6, 1661.

- | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|--|--------------------------------------|
| (1) Sir JOHN,
bapt. 5 Feb.
1638, knight-
ed 10th Dec.
1674, d. 29
June, 1677. | (2, 3, 4)
Anne,
Samuel,
a dau.
All died
Infants. | (5) Anne, b.
1645, m.
1671, Robt.
Woolley, Ci-
tizen and
Merchant
Taylor (issue
5 sons and 4
daurs.) d.
1695, buried
at Welle, Lin-
colnshire. | (6) James,
b. 1646,
twice m.
and had
issue 5
children. | (7) Afahel, b. 14
Feb. 1647, M.A.
Camb. beneficed
at Sandwich,
Preb. of Glou-
cester, R. of
Deynton, d. 30
April, 1678, b.
St. Andrew,
Holborn. | (8) Bethiah,
b. 1649, d.
1659. |
|--|---|---|---|--|--------------------------------------|

- | | | | |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| (3) Elizabeth, b. 17 Feb.
1674, d. 23 Sept. 1710,
bur. St. Andrew Holborn,
married, 3rd June, 1693,
Peter Gelfthorp of Hat-
ton Garden, M. D. | (1) John, born
30th June,
1673, d. 22nd
Jan. 1683, bur.
Long Orton,
Northants. | (2) Joseph,
born 1674,
d. 1683. | (3) Mary, b. post-
humous, 2 Sept.
1678, m. 1699-
1700, Rev. Mr.
Shipman, beneficed
in Norfolk. |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|--|

Robert Gelfthorp, of
Welwyn, only son,
d. 8 Jan. 1730.



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